

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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A1
1. A nonwoven fabric laminate, comprising:  
a first nonwoven layer;  
a second nonwoven layer; and  
a meltblown web positioned between the first nonwoven layer and the second nonwoven layer, the meltblown web having a gradient fiber size structure wherein adjacent layers of the meltblown web have a mean diameter difference of at least 4.0 microns.
  2. The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 1, wherein the meltblown web comprises at least one layer of fine meltblown fibers.
  3. The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 2, wherein the fine meltblown fibers have an average diameter less than about 5.0 microns.
  4. The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 2, wherein the fine meltblown fibers have an average diameter of 0.1 micron to about 4.0 microns.
  5. The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 1, wherein the meltblown web comprises at least one layer of coarse meltblown fibers.
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A3

6. The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 5, wherein the coarse meltblown fibers have an average diameter at least about 5.0 microns.

7. The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 5, wherein the coarse meltblown fibers have an average diameter of about 6.0 microns to about 15 microns.

8. The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 1, wherein the gradient fiber size structure comprises at least one layer of fine meltblown fibers bonded to at least one layer of coarse meltblown fibers.

9. The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 8, wherein the meltblown web has an air permeability of about 176 cfm to about 227 cfm.

10. The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 8, wherein the meltblown web has an opacity of about 39% to about 51%.

11. The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 1, wherein the gradient fiber size structure comprises a layer of fine meltblown fibers positioned between a first layer of coarse meltblown fibers and a second layer of coarse meltblown fibers.



17. A nonwoven fabric laminate, comprising:

a first spunbond layer;

a meltblown web having a first side bonded to a first side of the first spunbond layer, the meltblown web comprising at least one layer of coarse meltblown fibers having a first mean fiber diameter and at least one layer of fine meltblown fibers having a second mean fiber diameter wherein a difference between the first mean fiber diameter and the second mean fiber diameter is at least 4.0 microns;

a second spunbond layer having a first side bonded to a second side of the meltblown web.

18. The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 17, wherein the meltblown web further comprises a third layer of meltblown fibers.

19. A nonwoven fabric laminate, comprising:

a meltblown web having at least one layer of coarse meltblown fibers and at least one layer of fine meltblown fibers, the coarse meltblown fibers having an average diameter of at least about 5 microns and the fine meltblown fibers having an average diameter of less than about 5 microns,

the at least one layer of coarse meltblown fibers and the at least one layer of fine meltblown fibers provide a gradient fiber size structure.

20. The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 19, wherein the layer of course meltblown fibers has a mean fiber diameter at least 4.0 microns greater than a mean fiber diameter of the layer of fine meltblown fibers.

21. A medical gown comprising the laminate of Claim 19.

22. A medical drape comprising the laminate of Claim 19.

23. A garment comprising the laminate of Claim 19.

24. A sterilization wrap comprising the laminate of Claim 19.

25. A towel comprising the laminate of Claim 19.

26. A foot cover comprising the laminate of Claim 19.